CITY AND DISTRICT.

REAL ESTATE GOSSIP. Opinions of Owners and Builders upon the Reut Question.

10005-A FINE CLASS OF HOUSES SUTTED FOR RENT-ING PURPOSES-MR. GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND'S COUNTRY HOME-THE RIDING SCHOOL BUILDING.

THE STAR hit the nail square on the head on Saturday," exclaimed a young man to a STAR reporter whom he met on the street. "How do you mean?" asked the reporter. "Why, in printing that interview about high to rent a house for \$25 or \$30 a month, but it seems

rents here in the city," was the reply. "It tailles exactly with my experience. I have been trying mpossible to do so. Even the real-estate agents tell me that houses of this character are very scarce. But I don't need the aid of expert testimony on this point; my own experience is sufficient. As I can't get a house that comes within I start out with the intention of renting a house, and I travel all over the city to look at houses which I discover are not worth \$15. my means I am compelled to board. Occasionally and I travel all over the city to look at houses which I discover are not worth \$15 a month, aithough \$25, and even \$30, is asked. A nouse that is at all desirable is sure to be \$35, and even \$40, per month. I was talking with a friend of name, not long ago, who lived here a few years ago, but is now residing in Philadelphia. He told me that while here he was obliged to board, as he was unable to pay the rents asked. When he first went to Philadelphia he rented a house containing eight rooms, nicely finished, and within twenty minutes of his place of business by the cable road. The rent was \$19 per month, and afterward he determined to hus the house. He paid a small amount termined to buy the house. He paid a small amount of money as the first installment, and then \$25 per month until he had secured a home. It would ake eight or nine years to buy a house at this rate WHAT REAL ESTATE AGENTS SAY.

Subsequently in talking with a number of real estate agents the substance of this complaint was mentioned, and a variety of opinions were ex-

one dealer said: "It is true that there are not many houses of the character described for rent. There are plenty of houses that are vacant, but the rent asked is considerably higher, ranging from \$30 to \$45. One reason is, I think, the high price of land. No one can afford to buy land at \$1 and \$1.25 per foot and buyld a house to rent for \$25 per mouth. An average city lot at such figures would cost \$2.000 and nuvers? cost \$2,000 and upward. At the present time it is impossible to buy land in the northwest section, west of 12th street and inside of Boundary, at a less rate. The same is true in other localities which are convenient of access. In order to buy ground for 50 and 75 cents per foot you have to go some distance from the center of the city. Then there is another feature which tends to keep up prices, and that is the prevalent idea that property must pay 10 and 12 per cent gross on the money invested. People here are not satisfied with a low rate of interest. They want to make 8, 9 or 10 per cent net, while in other cities people are con-tented with a much lower rate of interest, provid-ing only that their money is safely invested. Of course there is the contingency which every property-owner must consider of his houses being for a a time without tenants, but in this city when a house is in good condition, and when the rent is fair, such a contingency rarely occurs."

"It is all nonsense," remarked another dealer, to whom the matter was most bread. "There are to whom the matter was mentioned. "There are plenty of houses which can be related for \$25 and \$30 per month, and in good localibles, too. A man who wants to buy a house can secure the best terms. This class is encouraged by all dealers as well as owners, and it is so arranged that the monthly installments are not much greater than the rent. That is not the trouble. The people here are too particular. The majority want a 25 house in a 275 petchlorder. Nearly all our a house in a \$75 neighborhood. Nearly all our ap-plicants desire a house in the northwest section, or in some other fashionable locality. They also want a house with some style about it, and, of course, if they gratify such tastes, they roust expect to pay for it. The great desire is to be in a good and honest servants. To keep house with locality that is central. There are so many people who won't walk, and even those who live teden-ligh rents. To keep house without any servant is tary lives ride back and forward in the street cars to their places of business. The leading objection to the young mother whose busy may require at that we hear to property that we offer for ren't is tention at the same moment that the inexorable not so much the price as that it is so far away, or eise that the neighborhood is not stylish."

"Have you any houses on your list that rent for conditions which exist here until they were quite

ford to rent it for \$25 per month. You can readily many houses are that are built by speculators. The total cost, as you see, would be \$3,280, and the monthly rental of \$25 would pay a gross revenue of a trifle over 9 per cent. This is not considered a good investment, for the reason that the year. If the ground is purchased for 75 cents a foot, then I think that it would pay to erect upon it a \$2,000 house, and rent it at the figure named."

"The difficulty." he continued, "that presents itself is to get such ground in a part of the city class of tenants he would like to have won't be

houses to be rented for the money than in this city. One reason is there are no ground-rents here. The land goes with the improvements. Ground-rents, running as they do for a term of years and affording a perfectly safe investment, are low. As the improvements revert to the land-owner upon the expiration of the time, the holder of the lease ne should de so, but you can see that the amount of money invested is comparatively small and hence the rents are correspondingly small. The effect of such a system is bad for the city and for the individual, whether he be owner or tenant. Propie living in a city where the land is leased and not sold are obliged to occupy houses of an inferior grade. There is not the same steady appreciation in values as where large sums of money are spent in improvements. Last of all the owner of the lease is liable to find himself in a hole. But in

lease is hable to find himself in a hole. But in this city a large proportion of the houses for rent are erected as a permanent investment. Hence, care is exercised in their construction and taste is employed to render them attractive. The architecture of this city, its beauty, grace and variety is remarked upon by visitors, and elicits equal admiration with that bestowed upon our well-paved streets. Now compare rents and property values here with those in such cities as New York and Boston, and after taking into consideration the difference in population

George Alfred Townsend, the well-known author and newspaper writer, is fond of building. His country place, Gapland, on South Mountain, Maryland, is where he exercises his fancy in this line. He spent a day or two here during the past week, and, when he left for Gapland he carried brought to each. On the one immediately in front little country half.

country home of Mrs. Dahigren, whose South Mountain sketches have made that portion of the country widely known.

THE RIDING SCHOOL BUILDING. Workmen are engaged in completing the large building at the corner of 22d and P streets, which is used as a riding school. The architect, Mr. G. S. cooper, has arranged the plan so that there are accummodations for 140 horses in the stables which occupy the sub-cellar. The riding ring is on the next door, and with the exception of the ladies? reception room and the office, the entire space is occupied for that purpose. The space immediately over the front portion of the building is occupied dressing rooms, toilet rooms, &c., and a le which continues all around the interior of the

building.

The property-owners on Meridian Hill have formed an organization, to be known as "The Meridian Hill Improvement Association." The officers elected at a meeting held during the week are as follows: E. B. Townsend, president; Frank M. Green, vice-president; W. L. Clift, secretary; John W. Thompson, chairman of finance committee and treasurer. Its standing committees are as follows: Committee on legislation—W. C. Hill, A. P. Fardon, O. F. Presbrey, John B. Henderson, J. H. C. Wilson, H. J. Gray, A. A. Freeman, Thomas H. Sheiman, D. G. Purman, Luther Harrison, John Tweedale, Dr. J. W. Rawilns, Prof. Miles Rock, N. W. Burcheil, Richard Dubois: committee on public improvements, A. P. Fardon, Richard Dubois, David Cramner, Geo. W. Linkins, Thos. H. Fuller, Morelf Marcan, Louis P. Shoemaker; committee on financa, John Louis P. Shoemaker; committee on financa, John W. Thompson, Frank M. Green, Luther Fuller, W. B. Brown, J. C. Weir; committee on audit, O. F. Presbrey, A. H. Nixon.

The object of the association is to secure "in the

future a just share of annual appropriations for public improvements." The gentlemen interested state that they propose to press this matter before Congress and the Commissioners until this subdivision receives what they regard as just recognition and attention.

A Protest frem Capitel Hill.

To the Editor of THE EVENING STAR: There was one of the pretty common screed: about the high house rents in the city in last Saturday's STAR. These screeds do injury to the city, and are made, as a rule, by persons not easily pleased. I have had connection with the building and renting of eight houses in East Washington, 19 feet front, with celiars and bay windows: 48 feet deep, three rooms deep on lower floor, and four bed-rooms and bath-room on the second and upper story. The houses are well finished, with closets and all modern improvements. The lots are 136 feet deep and have a good-sized park in front. These houses have rented at \$25 a month since built, except two to which kitchens were added. built, except two to which kitchens were added and \$1 per month added to the rent, and a stable added to one, for which \$2 per month was added to the rent. I think the rent of these houses is about the average rent of houses on Capitol Hill; and Capitol Hill is blessed with pure air and good health, and there is no more moral people or better society in this or any other city than is to be found

DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES. Competent and Honest Servants Needed to Make Housekeeping Popular.

people, who do not engage in drag fox hunts, and who use the nights for sleep and the day for work

A reporter in last Saturday's STAR says that one whom he interviewed complained that Washington people were driven into boarding-houses because house rents were too high for men of moderate means. It is very true that a great many people in Washington are "driven into boarding-houses" -probably a larger proportion of its citizens than any other city in the whole country can show-but house rent, and that is to the difficulty of gettin apt to be very expensive to the health, especially to the young mother whose baby may require at 25 and \$30 per month?" asked the reporter.

"Certainly I have," was the quick response.

"There is a house containing six rooms on P street, between 9th and 10th streets northwest, which I will rent for \$31.50 per month. Then there are seven-room houses on T street, between 16th and 10th streets northwest, which rent for \$25 per month. On C street northeast, near Lincoln Park, there are seven-room houses which can be rented for \$24. There are some houses on H street near the content of the content of the content of the content of the composition of the compo

of the door-bell, are all saved to the dweller in flats or rooms. The abundance of laundresses in Washington has banished the horror of washing servants altogether, or whether our industrial training and moral ingenuity will succeed in pro-ducing good and honest servants, is an interesting

committee, and which the committee has no right

On account of the construction and because such houses attract a superior class of tenants, they have few repairs to make. But it you suggest to a man to undertake improvements of this class in a locality that is, perhaps, some distance away, he would laugh at you. He is convinced that the captices and the captices and committee is larger. It does not hear and adjudicate; it openly or covertly delegates its function to some one or more members; and the captices and the dangers of the one man power are some one or more members; and the captices and the dangers of the one man power are some one or more members. thought to perceive how much better committee work, and the work of each House, could be done work, and the work of each house, could be dolle under this system than under the present arrange-ment. Certainly for the continuance of the pres-

ent arrangement no good reason can be sugges

skeptic because he desied the existence of a "hoop snake." One of the ladies, who, by the way, is known to be a truthful woman, avers that when she was a child she was chased by a hoop snake.

The animal piaced its tail in its mouth and rolled ladge of the control of the cont

Etiquette at a Chinese Dinner.

week, and, when he left for Gapland he carried with him plans made by Mr. James G. Hill, the architect. for another structure. His house, room a distance, looks like a small village. It is, in fact, a group of buildings. There is a structure containing the living rooms, another for a library, and another serves as a kind of reception or stiting-room. Then there is a billiard, another for a belief, another for a library, and another for a library, and another for a library, and another serves as a kind of reception or stiting-room. Then there is a subject to the left, and place it to the left and eat two mouthfuls with the chopstick, will be closen, as it is the purpose to have designed or stiting correspond in color with fix neighbor, the first and eat two mouthfuls with the chopstick, and the architectural as the fownsend. He proposes to build this time, as a billiard-room, and the architectural as a billiard-room, and the upper story for sicepting rooms. Mr. Townsend's place is near the

VATION-RAPID PROGRESS PROMISED. Though the progress of construction of the

ongressional Library building has been slow to

the external observer, much has been accom-

plished and is visible to one who takes pains to ook for it. The high board fence which encloses the ground even conceals much more of work done than a casual observer would note. For a building of such dimensions and pretensions the preiminary work done is a matter of no small consideration. It requires time and talent to make preparations for a building that is to be second in size and importance only to the National Capitol. A STAR reporter ascended the stairs of the old "Lincoln" mausion, on the corner of East Capito

and 2d streets, and found Mr. J. L. Smithmeyer, architect of the Library building. He cheerfully consented to accompany the reporter over the ground, and point out what had been done toward rearing this great building. Under his guidance a tour of the entire place was made, and every portion of the house in which the brain work of the enterprise is done was visited. WHAT HAS BEEN DONE.

In 1886 Congress appropriated \$500,000 for the construction of the Library, and of this sum there remains unexpended, outside of certain outstand-Ing liabilities, about \$335,000. The large area of ground purchased for the site has been cleared of all save five of the buildings that stood upon it. Two of these are in use for the storage of Congressional documents, the others are used as offices and store-rooms and tool-houses for the work in hand. The residence formerly occupied by Mr. Liucoln, besides containing the offices of the commission.

THE WOLKSHOP OF THE ARCHITECT. From the attic the eye takes in the whole expanse of the site. The cellar excavation, which is and reliting of eight houses in East Washington, situated on a paved street, one square from East Capitol street. The houses front south, four of them a little more and the other a little less than 19 feet front, with celiars and bay windows; 48 exterior walls and the Atreets surrounding a space of the projected in the ground, leaving between the exterior walls and the Atreets surrounding a space of about fifty or sixty jest for an esplanade or for flowers or other outdoor prnamentation. The ex-cavations for foundations extend from six to eleven fect below the cellar, the debth varying in accordance with the character of the soil. These latter excavations have been about half completed, and could have been finished and the foundation walls laid ere now had not the unfortunate controversy over the quality of the cement supplied by the contractor arisen.

> THE CEMENT TROUBLE. Under sheds on the west side of the ground are several thousand barrels of cement, which were delivered under contract for making the concrete foundation. The architect insists that the cement is not up to the standard that is required; that it is below the standard specified in the contract, as is below the standard specified in the contract, as demonstrated by tests, and he will not accept it. The contractor maintains that it is up to the required mark and efforts to compel its acceptance by the architect have consumed four months of valuable time which, had it been employed, would have afforded the gratifying spectacle of the Library work showing itself above ground. The foundation work is now awaiting only the decision of this controversy. It only waits for cement that will meet the approval of the architect to go forward. In the course of the excavations it was discovered that a creek had formerly run through the site, and its bed was filled with old bricks, stone and rubbish of all sorts. In order to make stone and rubbish of all sorts. In order to make substantial foundations along the old creek shafts had to be sunk to a depth of eleven feet where solid soil was reached. These shafts will be filled

For the purpose of testing the resisting strength f the soil upon which the foundations of the exterior walls must be laid, a traveling machine was rior walls must be laid, a traveling machine was constructed. In the first place the bottom of the trenches, which were sunk 6 feet below the celiar, or 16 feet below the surface, was made entirely level. Then the machine, consisting of a car, bearing the required weight in pig lead, was placed in the trenches and placed upon iron rails so that, notwithstanding the enormous weight carried, it could be moved along. These rails rested upon four cast-iron pedestals, set 4 feet apart each way, each pedestal setting flat upon and exactly covering one square foot of ground. Thus one-fourth of the entire weight was borne upon each pedestal. month. On C street northeast, near Lincoln Park, there are seven-room houses which can be rented for \$25. Then on 16th street northeast, and the rental is \$20. Then on 16th street northwest, near the Boundary, there are nine-room houses which can be rented to every house that asks for them, there is probably no city in this country better fed for the amount of money given than this.

In wking a living. Between the good boarding the one square tool of ground. Thus one-fourth of the other weight was borne upon each pedestal, and the residence of the pressure, the residence of the pressure, the residence of money given than this. maximum pressure of 13.5 tons to the square foot, whereas the pressure of the walls will be but quarter inches in the resisting strength of the soil, and it is for this reason that the architect insists so strenuously upon having cement of high grade tensile strength that the concrete foundation shall be so made as to effectually prevent any sinking and consequent cracking of walls because of inequalities of soil. The soil is composed of yeilow clay and sand, and promises to be strong enough, but assurance should be made doubly sure, the architect thinks, by the proper kind of a cement foundation. Besides the bed of the old creek several old wells and the foundations of an old brewery were discovered in making the excavations. One of the wells was 55 feet deep and

> The drainage-pipes and cess-pools, sixty-four in number, have all been laid 6 seet beneath the bottom of the cellar. These pipes connect with a sewer, extending around the four sides of the site outside the building line, which empties into a public sewer at the corner of 1st and B streets by contrivances which will enable us to do without servants altogether, or whether our industrial training and moral ingenuity will succeed in producing good and honest servants, is an interesting but as yet an unsolved problem. H. C. I.
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> Congressional Committees are Too Large.
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> To the Editor of The Evening Star:
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> Is there not a reform needed in the matter of the committees of Congress? The committees of the Senate generally comprise nine or eleven members, and those of the House of Representatives thirteen or fifteen. These numbers are entirely too large, and the committees are too unwieldy. The result is that it is often difficult to procure

> > The second story of the Lincoin building is occupled by the assistants of the architect, such as draughtsmen, computers, engineers, &c., and the then by means of the blue-print process as many copies of each drawing as are desired is obtained. The attic of the house has been fitted up for blue-printing, and provided with all the modern appliances and machinery. In the rear and nearly on a level with the roof an open balcony has been constructed, where the printing is done by means of exposure to the sun. In a room admitting only a very soft light through colored glass the paper is prepared for the process. It is then hung up in a by this means accurate copies are obtained at a nominal cost. As the drawing of each section of a wall or other portion of the building shows the size, dimensions and shape of each stone to enter into the construction, and as each stone is numbered, it can be seen that it is important for the contractors and all others who have anything to do with the work to have a copy.

do with the work to have a copy. ODD-SHAPED STONES and numbered to correspond; then, when received here, each is set in its designated place according to the number it bears. Not only are the dimensions and numbers of the stones set out in the drawings, but they are entered in books prepared for the purpose, and by footing up the figures the aggregate quantity of stone entering into each small section of the building is ascertained. As the stone, whether marble or granite be used, must be paid for by the cubic foot, these records stand as a

THE VENTILATING SYSTEM

Work Done, and Preparations Made for Constructing the Massive Building.

THE CEMENT CONTROVERSY THE CAUSE OF THE DELAY—WORKSHOP OF THE ARCHITECT—HOW THE DETAILED PLANS ARE PREPARED—INCENIOUS METHODS OF TESTING MATERIALS—THE BIG EXCAVATION—RAPID PROGRESS PROMISED.

the stone—whether it shall be marble or granite—the samples of such material that have been submitted will be subjected to tests. The 1 inch cubes will be placed under crushing machines to ascertain just how much pressure each can stand. Then the fragments of each of these little cubes will be carefully analyzed to find out whether any objectionable ingredients enter into its composition. The samples that best stand these tests will represent the material finally chosen, but of course contracts will be awarded only after competition.

The basement of the Lincoln House has been converted into a complete workshop, where models of the various portions of the building are constructed. These models are necessary in addition to the plans and drawings to aid the artisans in entire accuracy. The Star reporter was shown a model of the octagonal reading room. It is a miniature representation of that central feature of the projected Library in every feature. Even the plastering and inside ornamentation is complete, other models are in process of construction, corresponding with the sectional drawings, and with these models before them the workmen will be enabled to remedy any defect in the designs should defects occur. Immediately in rear of the house, between it and the one fronting on 2d street, which was reserved for present uses, stands platform scales. Every load of material is weighed on these scales before entering the grounds, and the weight recorded. converted into a complete workshop, where models

In the basement of the rear building is the ap-In the basement of the rear building is the apparatus for testing cement. In the first place in this process a long, grooved implement, such as is used for extracting samples of flour, is employed. With this about a pound of the cement is taken from the center of the barrel. This sample is mixed into a dough upon a plate of glass. The soit dough is then put into a mould so arranged as to make a depression in the center. When the cement hardens, which is about twenty-four hours, it is taken out of the mould and immersed in water, where it remains six days. Then the hours, it is taken out of the mould and immersed in water, where it remains six days. Then the hardened cake is put into a machine devised for testing its tensile strength. It is gripped between two sets of clamps and by raising a small lever very fine shot are run through a small funnel into a copper bucket. When the pressure is all that the cement can stand, the cake snaps asunder in the middle, and the flow of shot is stopped. Then by weighing the shot on a scale attached to the machine for that purpose. achine for that purpose, THE PRECISE STRENGTH

of the cement is shown. One cake that had been in water about twenty days was tested in the presence of The Star reporter, and it showed a tensile strength of 250 pounds, whereas the architect called for a capacity of 300 pounds. A sample from every barrel of cement delivered by the contractors is subjected to this test.

Only one of the buildings that fronted on B street still remains, and that is used as a blacksmith shop and for the storage of tools. Everything is now in a condition to admit of a rapid prosecution of the work, and the architect says that as soon as the cement controversy shall have been settled he will be prepared to push forward with a diligence that will gratify the people of Washington, and, indeed, of

of the cement is shown. One cake that had been

pared to push forward with a diligence that will gratify the people of Washington, and, indeed, of the whole country, as the interest and pride in this great building, which is to be the largest library in the world, is not bounded by any locality. THE NATIONAL GUARD.

Matters of Interest to the Different Militia Organizations. THE TALK OF THE ARMORIES-BEGINNING THE OF FICIAL INSPECTIONS-THE REGIMENTAL ORGANIZA-

MORY-THE MILITIA BILL. The organization of the first and second reginents of the District National Guard is now about completed. The newly-elected regimental officers have yet to pass their examinations and be commissioned in their new rank.

TIONS-A PROJECT FOR SECURING A GRAND AR-

Col. Moore and Lieut,-Col. Dalton, by the new arrangement, are no longer Washington Light Infan-try men,or they may be said to be Washington Light Infantry men and something more. Their new com-mand includes the Washington Light Infantry Corps. Several vacancies remain to be filled by the elevation of officers. A new major for the 1st battalion, or W. L. I. Corps, will have to be elected. Gen. Ordway says the corps has excellent material from which to select a major. Company A will have to choose a new captain to succeed Capt.

It is expected that the Senate military commitbusiness may delay or prevent its consideration by the House.

At present, with a few exceptions, the companies of the District militia have their separate armories. They are scattered all over the city. When funds becomes available, as it is hoped will soon be the case, for renting armories, it is probable that the companies will be grouped in battalions, if not in regiments. The separation of the companies form-

Speaking of armories, Gen. Ordway is looking ing are many rooms, conveniently arranged, to which companies could be assigned. Gen. Ordway says this would make the finest armory in the coun-try. The huge drill-shed would be available also as a

The enlisted men of Company A, second battalion, will assemble at their armory Monday eve-ning, for the purpose of electing acaptain, vice M. Emmet Urell, promoted, and a second lieutenant, vice Daniel V. Fenton, resigned. Upon his own application, First Sergt. Wm. F. Coggins, Company B, second battallon, has been honorably discharged from the National Guard.

Private Wm. Behn, Company D, first battallon, bring their hats with them to "meeting"

has been honorably discharged on account of ill C, sixth battalion, has been honorably discharged to enable him to accept appointment as a commis-

order announced in The Star, with the visit made to the w. L. I. C. arnory Thursday evening by Col. Clay, of Gen. Ordway's staff. Company D, of the W. L. I. C., or first battallon, was put through the ordeal that night, and the drill lasted an hour and a halt. The same evening the Washington Continentals, Company A, third battalion, were in-spected. Last night Company B, of the first bat-talion, and Company C, third, were inspected. The inspections will continue until all the con panies have been inspected, the dates fixed being as follows: Jan. 16, Co. A, 1, and A, 2; 17, Co.C, 1,

events at which national guardsmen will shine.
On the 18th inst. the W. L. I. corps will give a fuil
dress b.il. The armory will be handsomely decorated and the affair promises to be bridient in
every way. The Washington Merchants' Rifles

A general order has been made directing the fo ordnance stores, on the 30th of November. By battalion commanders—to be forwarded through the regimental adjutant to the adjutant to be saved, and from the ragged lines of hands that general—Annual muster-roll of field and staff, on the 30th of April; monthly drill and parade rethers was a great unanimity of sentiment in the been found to by allied to some specthers was a great unanimity of sentiment in the pelagic fishes. The pelagic fishes

SUNDAY AT JAIL How the Sabbath Day is Spent Among

the Convicts. THE WOMAN WHO LEFT PARCELS FOR HER BUSBAND-THE PRISON EVANGELS AND THEIR WORK-SER-VICES IN THE ROTUNDA-HOW AN INNOCENT YOUNG MAN WAS SAVED FROM THE PENITENTIARY.

The doorbell at the jail rang. The jail has a door bell, as it requires some formality to get into jail

mons,
"Well," said the officer to THE STAR reporter, as "Well," said the officer to The State reporter, as the eyes of both followed the form of the woman plodding on over the commons, "that's a case of mother-in-law. The trouble in that family is that there are two women in love with Mooney, his mother and his wife."

WHAT THE WIFE BROUGHT. The officer, according to prison regulations looked over the parcels left in his hands by the woman. There was one containing some cake and apples, another with a roll of newspapers in it, and the third held a good-sized piece of plug tobacco. These were offerings intended to soften

bacco. These were offerings intended to soften the hard heart of Mooney, laid at his feet, perhaps, with a faint hope that they might recall some of the love and tenderness that filled his heart once, when he plighted his troth.

"We see a good deal of human nature here," remarked the officer, after he had sent the package by another official out to the corridor where Mooney was confined. "There are many people, too, who think the positions here are easy and do not require any experience. There are some of us who have been here as long as twenty years, and I'll teil you there is not a day passes that we don't learn something new. There is something new comes up in the way of human nature, and you have got to learn how to treat different kinds of people. It is not merely turning a key in a lock."

It was Sunday, and no visitors are admitted to the jail on that day to see the prisoners. The woman who came knew this. She had traveled all the way from West Washington just to leave these trifles, and to have them given to Mooney with the message that his wife had left them. She would have gone home hopeful, and maybe happy, if it had not been for the chance remark of the officer about Mooney's mother.

RELIGIOUS DELEGATIONS. RELIGIOUS DELEGATIONS.

No visiting is allowed on Sunday, but the prison ers have considerable to occupy their minds. In the morning a delegation from St. Vincent de Paul Society comes to jail, and goes from cell to cell through the corridors. They talk to the prisoners, distribute Catholic publications, and occasionally give them aid in other ways than that of religion. About noon on every other Sunday comes a band of devout colored men and women. They do not go to the cells but stay in the rotunda where go to the cells, but stay in the rotunda, where they can be seen by some of the prisoners, and their voices can be heard by all. Here one of their The requirements of the National Guard, though now comprising each but two battalions, are intended to have three battalions each when completed. New companies as they are mustered in will be assigned to the third battalion of one of the regiments until the quota is filled. When a regiment is complete it will have a colonel, a lieutenant-colonel and three majors, one for each battalion. PREPARING FOR SERVICE.

After this visit dinner is served. A little after 2 rolled out a parlor organ in the rotunda, and

tobacco as a preparation for the service. from the others are assigned to the female prisoners. Only eight of these come out and seven ou hair frizzed in an alarming manner. She is tidily

on the Government and afterward died in the penitentiary of pneumonia. Before he left the jail, however, he received me kindly and he used to write to me from the penitentiary. Do we think we see any results from our work? Why, I know of many instances where men have been thoroughly reformed. There is one man now who is one of the most realous and active members of a church in the city. When we found him here he was charged with attempting to murder his wife. There are other cases, too, that have come under my personal observation."

The papers which are the favorites with the

The papers which are the favorites with the prisoners, so the prison evangel said, are those denominational journals which, while presenting a fair share of reading of a religious character, contain much literature of a secular stripe.

IN THE OCEAN DEPTHS. Torch-Light Procession at the Bot-ODD FISHES BROUGHT UP BY THE FISH-COMMISSION

NETS-CREATURES THAT LIVE THREE MILES UNDER WATER-THEIR PHYSICAL SURROUNDINGS - HOW THEY LIGHT UP THE SEA'S ABYSS.

In jars and bottles that stand in rows on the shelves of a laboratory at the National Museum are many strange fishes. To catch such fish as these a fisherman would have to go far out into the open sea and have a fish-line two or three miles long. These fishes have been studied and figured and made the subjects of many new and wonderful chapters of natural history. Dr. Tarleton H. Bean, the curator of icthyology was studying one of them when a STAR reporter invaded his laboratory the other day. It was a new species, one hitherto undescribed, and, of course, it was with some reluctance that he put it aside to chat with a STAR reporter who wanted to learn in half an hour what it has taken a corps of scientists, with steamships and saliors and dredging apparatus, years to find out. RECENT DISCOVERIES.

Until a few years ago science knew no more of the forms of life in the ocean depths than it knew of the inhabitants of Mars. Myth peopled these stient somber abyses with fanciful forms, mermaids, goblins, monsters with eyes of horrid size that haunted whiripools, guarded wonderful treasures of pearls, or held court in splendid sub-marine palaces built of corals and beautiful rocks. Science of course knew that any mermaid or goblin, or other creature that lived in these great depths must have a peculiar organization to adapt it to the physical conditions of life there, and It to the physical conditions of life there, and could construct perhaps on paper a hypothetical deep-sea fauna. At first, knowledge of the existence of deep-sea fishes was obtained from specimens found floating on the surface, fishes that in pursuit of prey had left their native depths and perished. Then deep-sea dredges and beam trawl nets were called into use. The British expedition in the Challenger, American expeditions in the Blake and the Albatross have given to the world about all that is known of deep-sea fishes. It is from the all that is known of deep-sea fishes. It is from the nets of the Blake and Arbatross that the bottles and jars in Dr. Bean's laboratory have been filled. HOW DEEP SEA-FISH ARE CAUGHT.

down a dredge or net to the bottom, and haul it up again, was the work of a whole day on the Chalthe net is dragged lying flat on the floor of the sea.
When the net is hauled up it is sure to contain
some fish from the bottom. The net has a mouth
or opening like the inverted cone of an cel pot, so
that fish easily find their way in; but once in, cannot find their way out. Occasionally a fish
brought to the surface this way will be still tremulous with life, but most of them are as dead as a
fish can be—as dead as a man would be if some
fisherman on the moon cast a net to the earth and
dragged him up into the airless spaces above our

cate tentacies or feelers. These tentacies help a
fish in its groping about the dark depths searching
for food. When the fish are brought to the surface
most of them appear to be soft, pulpy masses. The
bones and muscles appear to be feebly developed.
The tissues seem thin, weak, and easily ruptured.
These conditions, implying muscular weakness,
are apparently inconsistent with the powerful
shape of the jaws and the rapacious-looking teeth
of some of the predacious fishes.

CARRYING THEIR OWN LIGHTS.

gans that emit a phosphorescent gleam and she light on their path. Some of them carry little torches in the form of tentacles that rise from the tops of their heads. Many of them have regula symmetrical rows of luminous spots along their sides. These fish go flashing through the water torch-light procession. Sometimes whe the 30th of Aprit; monthly drill and parade relations the state of the state of the state and the st

WOMEN SHARPERS.

Females Who Make Their Living by Adroit Thievery. SKILLFUL SHOPLIFTERS AND THEIR WORK-A SUC CESSFUL DIAMOND ROBBERY-PICKPOCKETS IN STORES AND PUBLIC CONVEYANCES-OLD GENTLE-MEN VICTIMIZED BY CONFIDENCE OPERATORS. "Speaking of crimes and who commit them," aid a detective to a STAR reporter, "women are

models of the series of the control employed him, he said, wanted \$1,000 for the sur-render of the card. The adventuress was stopping at a fashionable hotel, and her address was left for future reference. The lady at once communi-cated with the gentleman who had lost the card, and who had not, up to that time, noticed his loss. A second interview was arranged, and instead of the man the adventuress herself appeared and met the gentleman who had lost the card. She de-manded \$1,000 for the card. The New Yorker at first put on a bold front and threatened arrest, but this did not frighten her. He finally paid over \$500 and her traveling expenses to New York for

> "Then," said the dectective, "there is a class of women who are known as professional shoplifters. They go in pairs, and during a single day will manage to get together several hundred dollars' worth of fine goods. One only will do the stealing. She enters a store, selects an article which she examines, and folds it or in some way gets it ready for 'noisting.' She folds or doubles it in such way that she can easily conceal it. She probsuch way that she can easily conceal it. She probably selects a valuable piece of lace, or a number of expensive lace handkerchiefs, or some other valuable article. Then her confederate attracts the attention of the cierk and chats with him until number one has concealed her article and made way with it. A good shoplifter always goes prepared to take and conceal articles of almost any size. She has large pockets in per outer expreents, sometimes large pockets in ner outer garments, sometimes attached to her shawl and sometimes arranged in cloak or coat. She also wears large talse dress for that purpose. These false pockets are usually fastened with a large safety pin, so that in case the woman is detected in her work the pin can be opened, letting the pocket containing the valuable plunder fall under her dress so she can pass on over it. Sometimes these pockets are fastened with a corset string run through eyelets with the loop fastened on the outside, so that by opening the loop the thief can instantly get rid of opening the loop the thief can instantly get rid of

shoplifters do not work usually with such devices. and can seldom carry off but one article. HOW ONE WOMAN DID IT. "Molly Holbrook, one of the smartest shoplifters

Americans have made a number of improvements on the apparatus used on the Challenger in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world, "he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world, "he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world, "he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued the world, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued the world, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued the world, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued the world, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued the world, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued the world, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued the world, "worked very summer." he world, "worked very summer. She in the world," he continued the world, "worked very summer. She in the world, "worked very summer." he world, "worked very summer." h expedition for deep-sea explorations. To send down a dredge or net to the bottom, and haul it up again, was the work of a whole day on the Challenger and then if the net did not happen to proprietor and clerks as a good customer. As such visits around the President as he was moving toward to the door, thus barring his retreat, and brought his

ing workers.' The gang is usually made up of two females and two males. After a house is selected as a field of operations, the females enter the store shortly after the arrival of the first cierk. Fine sliks and laces are called for and are spread on the watches on the outside. While the clerk's attenthe quartette are out of sight.

'One of the cleverest robberies ever committed." said the detective, "was concocted by a female who could not be found. Two or three weeks passed, but nothing was learned concerning the missing diamond. Then a man supposed to be the woman's confederate visited the store early one man's confederate visited the store early one with his other foreinger. "Yes, sir: I want him with his other foreinger. "Yes, sir: I want him to the reduction of I. sell them. The man said that he did not desire to make the purchase, but merely desired to make a counting on his fingers, first hurriedly unhooking selection for his wife, who would call during the day. The porter got a stepladder and let the man ascend and ex mine the vases. Later in the morning, when the clerks arrived, the porter told them of his early visitor. The head cierk at once suspected something wrong. He inspected the top shelf where the vases had been, and there saw where the diamond had ploughed through the dust when the diamond had ploughed through the dust when the picked up the precious stone. The woman had tossed the diamond up while the clerk's head was turned, and the confederate, who was watching, knew exactly where to look for it. He was never lound by the police nor was the diamond recovered.

"Females have revived an old racket which has

"The female pickpocket who works a crowded gaged making purchases. The pocket of the vic-tim is invariably on the right side of the dress, and the thier stands with the left side toward the

on her arm she takes the contents of that, leaving the bag. When she 'works' a crowded car, where she is unable to see the pocketbooks, she is compelled to do what the thieves calls 'fanning.' That is to move through the crowd and feel for the pocketbooks. Many persons who are overhauled in that way never notice it, and never know that any one has attempted to locate their pocketbook for the purpose of securing it."

tive, at her destination. She selects as her victim generally some kind-hearted old gentleman with a good-sized pocketbook. She tells him who she is, and whom she expects. How delighted she is to think that she is to meet the long lost relative, but still she fears that she may fall into bad hands because she is a stranger in town, and suggests to the old citizen that as she has to hire a vehicle he may as well do her the kindness to escort her to the — hotel. He, naturally, sympathizes with her, and is willing to accompany her to the hotel, that she may not fall into bad hands and get robbed. He interests himself in her behalf. When the city is reached she calls the driver of a back and orders him to drive her to the hotel.

minutes later they walk along chatting, and after a while they turn into some side street. The con-versation becomes interesting, and suddenly the couple are confronted by a man who has 'caught his wife.' He threatens divorce proceedings; says he knows the man's name, and will have him as a witness. He is not angry at the old man, but is rather glad he met them. The latter thinks of the disgrace of being connected with a divorce case, and begins to apologize. She tells the old man that apologies are not necessary, and calls him aside. Give me a hundred dollars, she says, and I'll nx things all right. He is willing, and considers himself lucky to get out of the scrape so cheap He hands over the money and takes his departure leaving the husband and wife quarreing. As soon as he is out of sight the quarreing couple come suddenly to terms and divide the money fright-ened out of the old man. Such women as this are plentiful, and many prominent persons are re-lieved of their money by this game."

ADVISING THE PRESIDENT. The Father of Greenbacks Attends a White House Reception-Explaining His Theories. He was a little old gentleman of a very old

school, and, as he paced contemplatively among the throng of modern citizens waiting in the East Room to shake the Presidential hand, he looked pockets attached to her pwierskirts or fastened about her walst or other underwear, in which articles can be inserted through a silt made in her bosom, his high collar and stock, his coat of ancient bosom, his high collar and stock, his coat of ancient with the loop fastened on the outside, so that by opening the loop the thief can instantly get rid of the plunder.

"A favorite mode followed by shoplitters who work alone is to use a muff as a means of concealing stolen articles. A large pocket is made inside the muff, which is placed on the counter. The thief places the back of her right hand across the top of the muff near one end, which partially conceals the article selected. A hook arranged inside the muff is worked with the left hand, and the article is slowly drawn into the muff. Common shoplifters do not work usually with such devices,

"Col. Taylor, of Chicago, sir!"

The President shook his hand heartily, and as is his custom, gave him a warm greeting. Thus emboldened the colonel ventured:

satisfaction, accompanied by half-uttered words, probably repeated from the Presidential lips. His hat, ironed on an antique block, his long silk muffler and his short top coat lay on a chair near

and set it squarely over his baldness, carefully wrapped his muffler over his stock, and then he

that I wanted to talk a little polities and a lot of money. You see, I know very well that he is almost pressed to death with business, and I thought that if I could get at him at the fag end of the re-

"A good card, sir;" retorted the colone, raising himself on his toes. "Why, it would be a full hand, sir. Now I suggested the issue of the green-backs to Abe Lincoln. When we were flooding the country with those bonds, sir," shaking the reporter as though he were a detested bond. "AND CHASE WAS AFRAID TO DO IT, been worked by bank sneaks for years," said the I came up here and sent my card in to Lincoln. He

detective. "A merchant stands at a bank counter sent out word, sir, to admit me at once. When I

"By the way, did you ever see Lincoln's letter?

"No," murmured the reporter, "but if you will excuse me while I write this item I shall be toward him, and with a weak smile took the pre-cious document. It was a printed copy of a letter from President Lincoln to "Col. Dick Taylor," re-peating in the short terse parases of his well-known style the history of the greenbacks, as already set forth by the coionel.

"This has been printed hundreds of times, sir," explained the little old man, carefully folding it and replacing it under the band of his hat; "but I thought that maybe you had not seen it."